Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

Seizing Opportunities:

2006 Securing Our Future

In the Sahtu Region

Carcajou Lake. Photo: Veitch

As part of our role within the Northwest Territories (NWT) vibrant and wide-ranging economic environment – we are balancing our efforts to promote sustainable opportunities in the energy, mines and petroleum resources industries with the development of a diversified economy throughout the NWT.

We are sharpening our focus to improve overall effectiveness of our plans and services.

This booklet outlines how we plan to help build business in the Sahtu this year. Concentrating on small business, mining, oil and gas development, tourism, forestry and the traditional economy, Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) staff will help your business reach measurable goals. Our staff and partners will provide support and assistance for the establishment, expansion and modernization of your business. Offering advice, and access to programs and resources, we will help you set and achieve your objectives as well as maximize the regional benefits from any new developments.

Part of this role includes developing communication networks between individuals, businesses, industry developers, communities, First Nations organizations and other government agencies. Call or visit our regional ITI office to see how we can help you grow.

Brendan Bell

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Goals

To encourage economic development in the Sahtu Region, your regional development team will:

- Promote and support a diversified economy that provides opportunities to residents.
- Promote and support the development of business opportunities, including agriculture, traditional economy, tourism, investment, manufacturing, and secondary industries.
- Promote the sustainable development of natural resources that respects the conservation and protection of the environment for our future generations.
- Promote and support the efficient development, utilization and marketing of energy resources to achieve self-sufficiency, maximize economic opportunities, and realize affordable energy costs.
- Secure economic and employment opportunities from responsible resource development for Northwest Territories residents.
- Develop partnerships with individuals, businesses, communities, Aboriginal organizations and other governments to foster prosperity and community self-reliance.

Our focus in the Sahtu Region will be to:

- Improve accessibility of information regarding ITI programs, services, and activities for regional stakeholders.
- Work directly with independent businesses to identify economic opportunities arising from current mineral and oil and gas exploration, and the potential Mackenzie Gas Project.
- Liaise with regional education, training authorities and industry to increase our capacity to take advantage of business and employment opportunities.
- Complete a Territorial Parks Plan for the Do et'q Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail.
- Strengthen efforts in support of the Traditional Economy with an increased emphasis on the trapping and fisheries sectors.

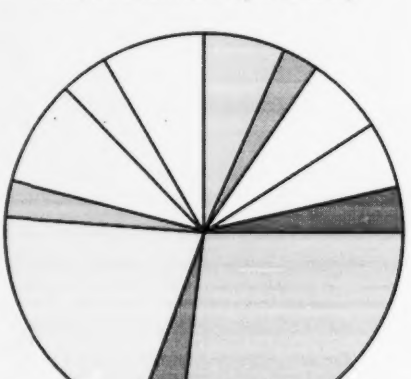
Access to Capital

We will provide assistance to regional business to gain access to capital for business development. We will work with our clients to:

1. Design and access suitable financial packages.
2. Access NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation programs.
3. Identify and access funds for business start up, expansion and seed capital.
4. Prepare funding proposals for evaluation, development and improvements to business.

Small Business/Venture Development

Sahtu Business by Industry



There are over 250 businesses active in the Sahtu, ranging from individual contractors to incorporated service providers. These businesses need our support to maintain, improve and expand their operations.

In order to provide this support, the Sahtu regional office of ITI will:

1. Develop a closer working partnership with the Sahtu Business Development Centre, by sharing information and resources.
2. Identify, provide and promote training opportunities that will increase the capacity of local businesses.
3. Work with communities to develop strategic Community Economic Development Plans.
4. Foster a closer relationship with the business community through regular contacts;
5. Facilitate the development of a Sahtu Business Directory.
6. Improve the capacity of Economic Development Officers in all communities by providing regular workshops, information sharing opportunities, and collaborative regional projects.

Colville Lake Crafts. Photo: GNWT

Traditional Economy

Many Sahtu residents rely on traditional lifestyles of hunting, fishing, trapping, and for the production of arts and crafts.

To develop and support the Traditional Economy, we will:

1. Provide and distribute information on available programs, that support Traditional Economy activities through marketing, training, and financial contributions.
2. Support "Take-a-kid Trapping" and other on-the-land programs, through contributions to the Sahtu Divisional Education Council and the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board.
3. Support and promote regional artists by providing access to workshops, funding, and marketing opportunities.

CESO Course in Deline. Photo: GNWT

Oil & Gas

This sector drives our economy. Over the next year the National Energy Board will be closely assessing the results and conclusions arising from its public hearings

We will continue to:

1. Work with communities and stakeholders to identify potential opportunities for capacity building and economic growth.
2. Maintain close links with industry and other stakeholders to seek training and capacity building opportunities for our communities.
3. Be responsive to local issues and concerns raised at public meetings and Community events to understand local concerns.

Grey Goose Lodge. Photo: GNWT

Tourism & Parks

Our region has over 40 licensed tourism operators, including outfitters and outpost camps, that cater to outdoor enthusiasts, big game hunters and sports fishers. This sector represents a critical part of our Region's economy.

We will:

1. Develop a comprehensive regional database that will capture all elements of the existing infrastructure and product development of our tourism sector.
2. Organize and host a Regional Forum on Tourism to bring industry interests together with other stakeholders to create a Regional Tourism Strategy.
3. Support the regional Park Development Committee in completing the Master Plan for the proposed Do et'q Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail.
4. Work closely with the Regional Trade and Investment Team to improve awareness of opportunities in the tourism industry.

Mines and Minerals

Mineral prospecting activities continue to be heavy in the Sahtu. As well as oil and gas, exploration is on-going for gold, diamonds, coal and other minerals.

To increase economic benefits from mining activities we will:

1. Promote and encourage mineral exploration in the Region by providing information, local knowledge and contacts.
2. Encourage use by mining speculators of local suppliers for goods and services.
3. Increase participation in prospector training programs.
4. Facilitate access to Prospectors Grubstake Program.

FGH Saw Mill. Photo: GNWT

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